

MEMORANDUM FOR Members, Greater Fairbanks Military Retiree Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting, Greater Fairbanks Military Retiree Council (7 January 2004)

1. Under the provisions of AR 600-8-7, Retirement Services Program, the Greater Fairbanks Military Retiree Council met 7 January 2004, 7:00 p.m., Last Frontier Club. Chairperson Richard Miller presided.

2. Present:

Doris C. Mercer	Mary Alice Jackson
Richard Miller	Terry Miller
Ladd McBride	Troy Stoneking
Lisa Stoneking	
Billie Blanchard, AUSA & MAC FCU	
Colonel Oliver Hunter, Deputy USARAK Commander	
Colonel Liz Metthstat, Deputy MEDDAC Commander	
Colonel Patricia Hamilton, DENTAC Commander	
CSM Bunting, Garrison CSM	
Gail Scarborough, RSO	

3. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Members stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made.

4. Minutes: Minutes were approved with a change. HR 58, Keeping Our Promise, is now HR 3474.

5. Committees:

a. Legislative: Richard Miller reports that CRSC (Combat Related Special Compensation) changed this month. Now all retirees with disabilities associated with combat, hazardous duty, instrumentalities of war or simulation of war may apply for CRSC payments. Last year, CRSC required a rating of at least 60% to apply. Also, a phase-in of Concurrent Receipt for the severely disabled (50% or more) begins this year. There is a change in the veterans' hiring preference; however, DOD will continue with prior standards.

b. Medical: Kaylee Hardcastle reports that TriCare On Line is now available. It is a web-based system to interactive health care services and information. TriCare Prime and Plus patients may schedule appointments online. Health care information is available. It is a good research tool. No date yet for the loss of military medevac, however, service is sporadic. The equipment is old and maintenance is a problem. If you are enrolled in TriCare Prime, you can be transferred at facility expense. The hospital can not pay for 65 and older by law. Coverage for TriCare for Life patients will require a change to the law. Bassett will assist with scheduling appointments at times which allow you the best transportation opportunities, but can not pay for your travel. TriCare for Life only gives authority for TriCare to be second payor to Medicare. Currently, staffing at Bassett is not bad. Have had a few more deployments, but have received backfills.

c. AAFES/Commissary: Bill Vicks, new Commissary Manager, will attend the February council meeting to discuss changes in the commissary and answer questions. If possible, please give your questions to Richard prior to the meeting and he will forward them to Mr. Vick to research.

APVR-AG-RS

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6. Old Business:

a. Retiree Appreciation Day: Gail has reserved the club for May 1st for the Retiree Appreciation Day. KayLee Hardcastle will brief attendees on TriCare for Life.

b. Bowl-A-Thon: Billie Blanchard stated the event raised \$1600 which helped over 300 families with holiday expenses. This is double the number of families assisted last year. Plans are to expand the event next year. She offered thanks to the CSM/SGMs for help in gathering names of families helped.

c. Change of Meeting Day: Council voted to move meetings to the first Monday of each month through May. Spaghetti night will not be available.

7. New Business: HR 3474 – Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act. Ladd McBride is the State Coordinator for the Class Act Group, Inc., who are leading a grass roots effort to gain support for passage of HR 3474. Ladd provided Council members with packets of information and sample letter.

8. Announcements:

a. February meeting speaker is new Commissary Manager. March meeting will have the VA Medical Clinic Manager to provide information on clinic services and the Department of Veteran Affairs.

b. Colonel Hunter stated members of the 1/501st PRI currently deployed to Afghanistan are doing well. Engineer Company will be departing for Iraq soon for a one year deployment. MPs will be going to Iraq and Afghanistan in April-May timeframe.

c. Royce Chapman, Congressman Young's office, provided information to the Council regarding the status of medevac flights. Medias are currently being used for "real thing". Service for Alaska will continue for now but will be sporadic and not dependable. His office is currently working the issue. He stated that Alaskans may see an increase in participating providers in the next year. Currently, attempting to pass legislation to increase the reimbursement rate for TriCare and Medicare to the VA level. Kaylee stated this is a wonderful piece of legislation and will help all seniors. Mr. Chapman also stated work is continuing to coordinate care between all branches of the federal government to provide care for efficiently. Please contact his office with any questions and will provide as much information as possible.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

10. Next Meeting: MONDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2004, 7:00 P.M., LAST FRONTIER CLUB.

RICHARD MILLER
Chairperson

I have reviewed these minutes.

GAIL SCARBOROUGH
RSO